CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER

NEW MUSIC HITS SHELVES
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Vol. LIX, Issue 657 www.Daily49er.com Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Students petition "pink" products containing cancer-causing chemicals

Choice U.S.A. aims to send the petition to Sen. Barbara Boxer calling for stricter product regulation.

By Crystal Niebla
Assistant News Editor

Nail polish and other consumer products can lead to cancer, according to a student-run organization that wants better regulation on beauty products.

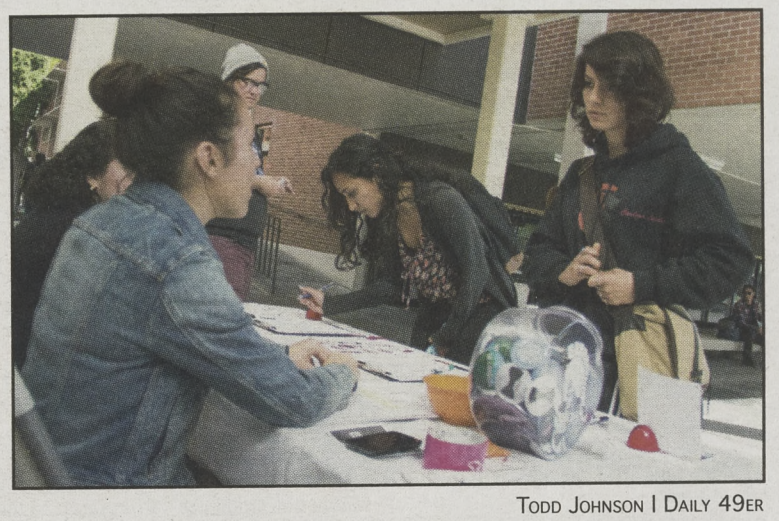
Choice U.S.A., the organization, set up a table in front of the Liberal Arts building 5 on Tuesday to gather signatures for a petition aimed to update the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976.

Choice U.S.A. Director Jessica Ross said that the petition will be "hand delivered" to Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) in the hope that she will support an upcoming bill aimed at placing stricter regulations on products containing cancer-causing chemicals.

Although consumers are encouraged to buy pink or pink ribbon products to help the breast cancer cause, Ross said that many of these products have cancer-causing chemicals that actually conflict with the fight against cancer. She referred to companies selling these products as "pinkwashers."

"Companies don't have to prove that their products are safe," she said. "[They] are fooling so many people."

See Pink, Page 2



Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

Choice U.S.A. Director Jessica Ross, left, explains the organization's petition to freshman Spanish major Fatima Carrera, right, near Liberal Arts building 5 on Tuesday.

Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

Sophomore social work majors Bianca Ortiz, front, and Yessenia Mayorga, back, examine a coat made of doll appendages in peta2's "creepy funhouse" on upper campus Tuesday. The funhouse also displayed images of slaughterhouses.

Funhouse by peta2 cages students, displays coat of legs, arms

The "creepy funhouse" aimed to educate students about slaughterhouses and factory farming.

By Jesus Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Students who visited the "creepy funhouse" on campus yesterday expecting to enter a typical Halloween haunted house may have been startled to find something a little different inside.

Peta2, a youth program of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, brought the "creepy funhouse" to campus to educate students about the origins of their food and to promote cruelty-free products, said Ryan Huling,

See peta2, Page 3

Sean Boyd | Daily 49er

The poll shows that most 18- to 29-year-olds support legalization.

Recent Gallup poll shows majority of Americans in favor of legalizing marijuana

By Einar Sevilla and Andrew Spencer
Staff Writers

A majority of Americans would like to follow in the footsteps of Washington and Colorado in legalizing marijuana, according to a Gallup poll released earlier this month.

Out of a sample of more than 1,000 registered voters, the Gallup poll found that 58 percent said they thought marijuana should be legalized and 39 percent said no.

The poll, which had a 4 percent margin of error, used data collected from a random sampling of telephone interviews with U.S. citizens 18 years of age and older.

According to the poll, this is the first time that a clear majority of Americans have been in favor of marijuana legalization. In the past year, support for legalization has increased by 10 percentage points.

The Gallup poll also showed that 67 percent of people 18 to 29 years old supported legalizing marijuana,

See Marijuana, Page 3

Chamber Choir to perform at national conference

The Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir will travel to South Carolina this weekend.

By Einar Sevilla
Assistant Social Media Editor

The Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir has been selected as one of eight schools from across the country to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization conference this weekend.

The Chamber Choir will perform at the fifth conference to be hosted by the College of Charleston in South Carolina. The conference will open on Thursday at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, S.C., and run through Saturday.

"Our choirs are well-respected nationally, and our programming is innovative, thoughtful and challenging," Chamber Choir Director and Conductor Jonathan Talberg said via email.

The Chamber Choir, which has mostly undergraduate students, is comprised of the top 29 singers at Cal State Long Beach, according to Stephen Salts, a graduate student and assistant conductor to the choir.

Talberg said that choosing choir members entails looking at the students' quality of singing, their musicianship and their sight-reading skills.

The Chamber Choir was accepted for the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO) conference in May and has been preparing for its performance since selecting its singers this fall.

Einar Sevilla | Daily 49er

Choir Director Jonathan Talberg, right, leads the Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir at practice on Tuesday.

To perform at the conference, collegiate choral ensembles like the Chamber Choir submit an application and recordings to a panel of five judges who select the eight choirs to perform, Salts said.

Long Beach will be one of three schools representing Southern California, along with Cal State Fullerton and Fullerton College.

Talberg said he purposefully chose to perform difficult music for the choir's audition to secure its spot at the NCCO conference.

"I chose the music of Dominick Argento because it's beautiful, insightful and not frequently performed because of its difficulty," Talberg said.

The choir spent five minutes at Friday's rehearsal trying to get down the proper pronunciation of the word "praise" in the song Talberg chose.

"This is my second year in chamber, and this is the hardest music I've ever done," said Becca Bishop, Alto singer and senior vocal performance major.

Stacy Oh, a graduate student and Soprano singer, said a lot of outside work and rehearsal time is required to prepare for the conference.

"When I found out we were performing, the first thing I thought was that we have to bring our A-game," Oh said.

The Chamber Choir also took a three-day retreat to Arrowbear Music Camp in Running Springs, Calif., to prepare and held extra rehearsals and sectionals, Talberg said.

The NCCO aims to serve the needs of university and collegiate choral conductors and is comprised primarily of college-level professors who work directly with the choirs at their schools, according to the NCCO website.

"This conference provides an opportunity for collegiate choral directors and student musicians to engage with one another, sharing ideas and music," Salt said.

Approximately 400 choral directors from universities across the nation will be present at the NCCO, according to Talberg.

Pink

Continued from Page 1

Ross said that these pinkwasher companies use the pink ribbon logo for commercial gain rather than to help the cause to fight cancer.

According to Ross, only 5 percent of the money raised in pink ribbon product sales is used for cancer prevention. The rest goes toward breast cancer awareness, which, Ross said, is already well known.

On Tuesday, Choice U.S.A. gathered about 200 signatures, Ross said, but the group was not required to gather a specific number of signatures.

Ross said that an online **bcaction.org** petition, also against pinkwashing and the use of carcinogenic chemicals in products, has gathered more than 18,000 signatures.

Ross also said that OPI Products Inc., a company she labeled as a pinkwasher, produces nail polish that is not regulated strictly enough.

However, OPI Chemist Paul Bryson said that most of these claims are a "whole lot of garbage."

Bryson said that claims made by organizations like Choice U.S.A. are inaccurate because they neglect that the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in OPI's products are "immeasurably small."

Formaldehyde, one of the chemicals opposed by Choice U.S.A., is used in nail polish as a cross-linking agent that stiffens fingernail protein, according to Bryson. He also said that large amounts of nail polish would have to be consumed for the chemicals to be lethal.

"I would have to drink five bottles of nail polish a day," Bryson said.

Despite the minimal amount of cancer-causing chemicals in these products, Ross said the presence of such chemicals is still a cause for concern.

Ross said that anyone can check the Environmental Working Group website to find out what kind of cancer-causing chemicals, if any, are in their products.

"I just want people to be critical of what they buy," Ross said.

Some students who signed the petition said they hoped to make a difference.

"I think [this petition] will change the way companies will produce their products," freshman finance major Joshua Cason said.

Biology major Vanessa Alvarez said that she feels concerned if everyday products are harmful. She also said that she liked seeing organizations advocating for a good cause.

"If we start small, it will make a difference in the future," she said.

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MARIJUANA

Continued from Page 1

whereas 31 percent disagreed.

Many students at Cal State Long Beach, like senior economics major Brandon Villalpando, said they agreed with the 58 percent in the poll and that recreational use of marijuana should be legalized.

"I generally would support it, obviously with some restrictions on that, similar to what we have with alcohol," Villalpando said. "I don't think children should be able to use recreational drugs but certainly enabling adults who, you know, can take care of themselves."

Other students, however, like junior social work major Michelle Climaco, said they disagreed and thought that legalization may lead to an increased use of the drug.

"Well, even though it's not legal right now, people still smoke it, so if they make it legal, there'll be more smokers," Climaco said. "I think it's a bad thing because if they make it legal then [people will] think it's OK and then smoke all the time and then in front of their kids and stuff."

Villalpando said he disagrees. He said that even though he thinks there may be a slight increase in recreational users if marijuana was legalized, he does not think there will be "an avalanche of heroine addicts and cocaine abusers."

"I think that those who wish to do so already are already doing so and those who simply aren't interested … probably won't," he said.

Junior biology major Briana Harris said she agreed with Villalpando that marijuana should be legalized and regulated.

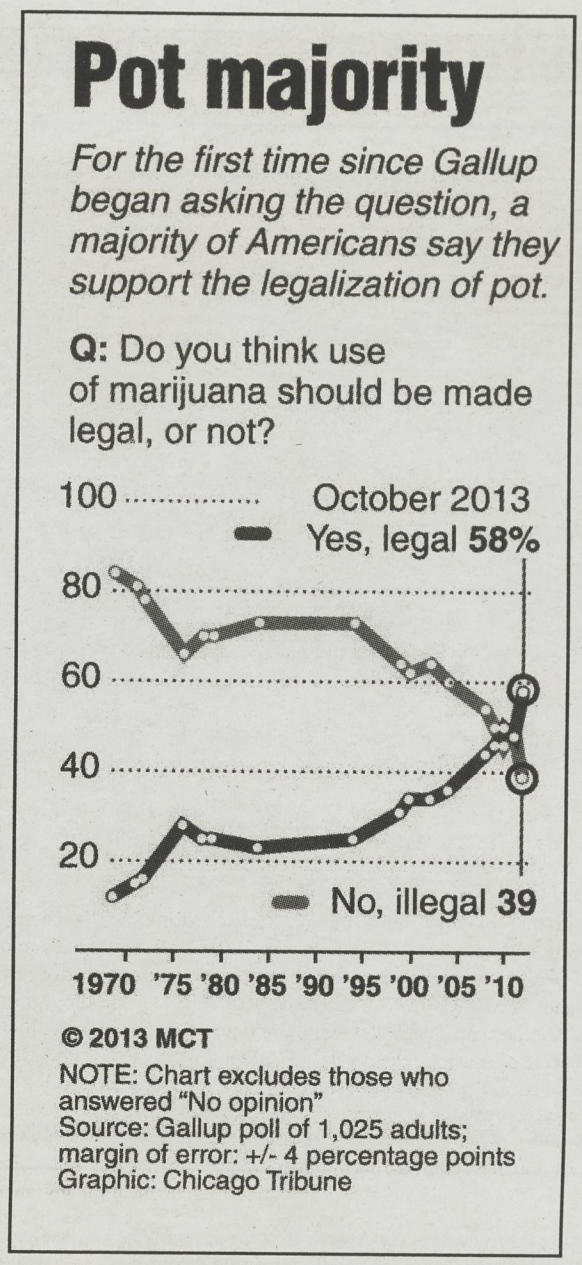
"My attitude is, if it doesn't affect me then I don't really mind," Harris said.

In 2010, Californians voted on Proposition 19, which would have legalized pot in the state, but the measure was struck down.

In the 2012 election, Washington and Colorado voted for legalizing marijuana for those 21 years old and older by passing Initiative 502 and Amendment 64, respectively, according to **Ballotpedia.org**.

Eighteen other states, including California, and the District of Columbia have voted to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes, according to **medicalmarijuana.procon.org**.

Staff Writer Emma Langschied contributed to this report.


Pot majority
For the first time since Gallup began asking the question, a majority of Americans say they support the legalization of pot.
Q: Do you think use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?
100
80
60
40
20
October 2013
Yes, legal 58%
No, illegal 39
1970 '75 '80 '85 '90 '95 '00 '05 '10
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NOTE: Chart excludes those who answered "No opinion"
Source: Gallup poll of 1,025 adults; margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

PETA2

Continued from Page 1

associate director of youth outreach for peta2.

"It draws attention to the absurd cruelty we inflict on animals for food, clothing, experimentation and other industries," Huling said. "We are trying to get people to think about their choices a little more."

Spooky music played from the funhouse tent, which displayed graphic images of commercial slaughterhouses and factory farms, while a peta2 representative sporting a chicken costume encouraged students to enter.

Displays included a cage that students could step into and experience the confines of factory farming; photos depicting the practices of commercial slaughterhouses; and a coat with doll appendages sewn into it, a piece that peta2's College Campaign Coordinator Kenneth Montville said was meant to "put into perspective how we treat animals."

"It can take dozens of rabbits to make a fur coat," Montville said. "This is the 21st century. We can either make choices to be cruel or kind. We really want people to open their hearts and eyes to how they treat animals."

Caroline Sanchez, peta2's campus representative and president of Cease Animal Torture, an on-campus animal rights organization, said she hopes that the tent shows people "absurdities" in the way animals are treated.

"We're trying to get people to realize how absurd some of the uses are," Sanchez said. "[The tent] is trying to get people in that mindframe, that it is weird."

Huling said yesterday was the first time the "creepy funhouse" had come to a college campus and that its reception would likely lead to its being displayed on other campuses.

"[The exhibit] spent the entire summer on Warped Tour, so it travels to concerts and festivals," he said. "We never brought it to a college campus. Cal State long Beach is the first campus. Based on the success here, we are looking into displaying it at other schools."

Some students said they thought peta2's display was effective in spreading awareness.

"It really grossed me out and made me feel bad," undeclared freshman Kendall Kaller said. "It definitely makes you think more about things and not want to eat meat. It made me lose my appetite."

Freshman biology major Flor Torres said the display might lead to a change in his eating habits.

"It's very shocking," Torres said. "The picture with the man in the cage was especially interesting. I would probably consider making a change in my diet."

Huling, who is a vegan, said he eats a diet of fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta and rice dishes. He said that becoming vegan or vegetarian can be a slow, gradual process.

"As you start to find more vegan and vegetarian options, it becomes easier and easier to reduce how much meat and animal products you are taking in," Huling said. "Even here on campus, I just went over to the Beach Hut, and they have delicious vegan wraps, veggie burritos and other options alongside the meat, and it was the same price."

Photo Editor Todd Johnson contributed to this report.

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Affordable Care Act could hurt the American middle-class

What was originally touted as a landmark bill has turned into a nightmare for some.

According to the Los Angeles Times, some middle-class Americans have expressed frustration over revelations that their health insurance under the Affordable Care Act will cost more than their current plans.

Although it won't be fully implemented until next year, the Affordable Care Act has been plagued by delays, such website registration problems, and was at the center of the government shutdown.

Our View

While we support the Affordable Care Act and hope that all Americans will comply with it, we are upset with how it could adversely affect the American middle class.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014 will bring the implementation of the health insurance marketplace and the prohibition of denying coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.

While we like that the Affordable Care Act requires all Americans to purchase health insurance, we believe the fines imposed by the government for not purchasing health insurance aren't effective.

If someone does not purchase health insurance by next year's deadline, the penalty is $95 or one percent of the nonbuyer's income, according to the LA Times.

For instance, if a couple earns $75,000 per year and chooses not to pay for health insurance, they must pay a $750 fine, equal to 1 percent of their income.

Although it would be unwise, some uninsured Americans may choose to pay the fine instead of the hundreds or thousands more for insurance.

In order for the Affordable Care Act to succeed, fines for not participating should equal if not exceed the cost of healthcare itself.

This would ensure that almost every American complies with the Affordable Care Act. If the fines are too small, uninsured Americans will continue to risk their health and avoid healthcare altogether.

We realize, though, that some Americans may not be able to purchase healthcare because they can't afford it. A fine equal to the price of healthcare could prevent them from complying with the law.

Still, with the fine so low, Americans who can afford healthcare are paying even more to cover the cost for those who can't afford it.

Is it fair to have those Americans pick up the extra prices for the other Americans who can't?

We don't think so.

Whether or not the fine is raised, we hope that the American middle class won't always carry the burden of uncovered costs in the Affordable Care Act.

Calls to repeal Russia's anti-gay legislation largely miss the point

Russian President Vladimir Putin may be a diplomatic genius, but his ability to institute popular domestic policies has been tarnished in recent months.

According to the BBC, Putin recently stressed that gay athletes will be welcome in the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

"We will do everything to make sure that athletes, fans and guests feel comfortable at the Olympic Games regardless of their ethnicity, race or sexual orientation," Putin said, according to the BBC. "I would like to underline that."

According to the BBC, Russia's anti-gay law makes it illegal for Russians to promote "non-traditional sexual relations" to minors. Fines for private individuals who disobey the law are approximately $155 per offense.

According to The Guardian, the anti-gay law also prohibits the distribution of material discussing gay rights.

Although the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the U.S. believe that Putin should repeal the anti-gay law to promote full equality in Russia, calling on him to repeal it for the sake of the upcoming Olympic Games is foolish.

To act like the Olympic Games has been a unifying force is completely unreasonable. Marred by controversy, murder and hurt feelings, the upcoming Olympic Games should not force Putin into a diplomatic corner.

Shane Newell

Upon examination, one can easily see that controversy has erupted at nearly every set of Olympic Games since 1908.

The first major controversy occurred in 1936 when Berlin was the host. Led by the Führer and Chancellor of Germany Adolf Hitler, the Games were plagued by blatant racism on behalf of the German Nazis.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jewish athletes were forbidden to participate on the German Olympic team.

Why didn't the U.S. and Western nations boycott the 1936 Games in protest of Hitler's policies?

The blatant racist situation in 1936 seems much worse than the anti-gay situation that could be in 2014.

Perhaps the most infamous Olympic incident occurred in 1972, when 11 Jewish athletes were murdered by Palestinian terrorists in Munich.

Known as the Munich Massacre, the murder of 11 innocent athletes forever cast a dark shadow on the Olympic Games.

Since the Munich Massacre, the Olympics have been disgraced by countries boycotting the games. In 1980, 65 countries chose not to participate in the Olympics because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

As one can see, the Olympics have done little to unify the world and make it a better place.

Therefore, calling on Putin to change a domestic policy because of the sanctity of the Olympics is absolutely ridiculous.

Although Russia's anti-gay law may be unpopular among U.S. activists for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Russia should not be pressured into accommodating to Western standards.

According to the BBC, nearly 50 percent of all Russians believe that gays and lesbians "should not enjoy the same rights as other citizens."

With a nation that is split down the middle on the issue of gay rights, Putin would face steep criticism if he repealed the anti-gay law.

Let Russia do what it wants. We've got enough to worry about here in the U.S.

Shane Newell is a junior journalism major and the opinions editor at the Daily 49er.

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

Campus Voice

Do you plan to enroll in the Affordable Care Act marketplace by the end of the year? If so, why?

"I get healthcare from my parents. I haven't looked too much into Obamacare."

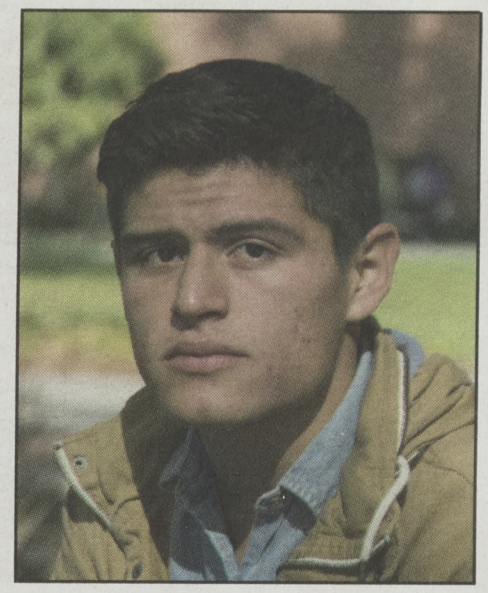
- Joanna Olmos, junior human development major

"I haven't heard anything [about the Affordable Care Act]. It depends if I get it from my parents or not."

- Aubrey De Los Reyes, freshman pre-nursing major

"I don't know much about it. I think the university should inform students [more]."

- Tiffany Arellano, freshman creative writing major



"I don't know anything about it. What am I supposed to do?"

- Ray Vilchis, undeclared freshman

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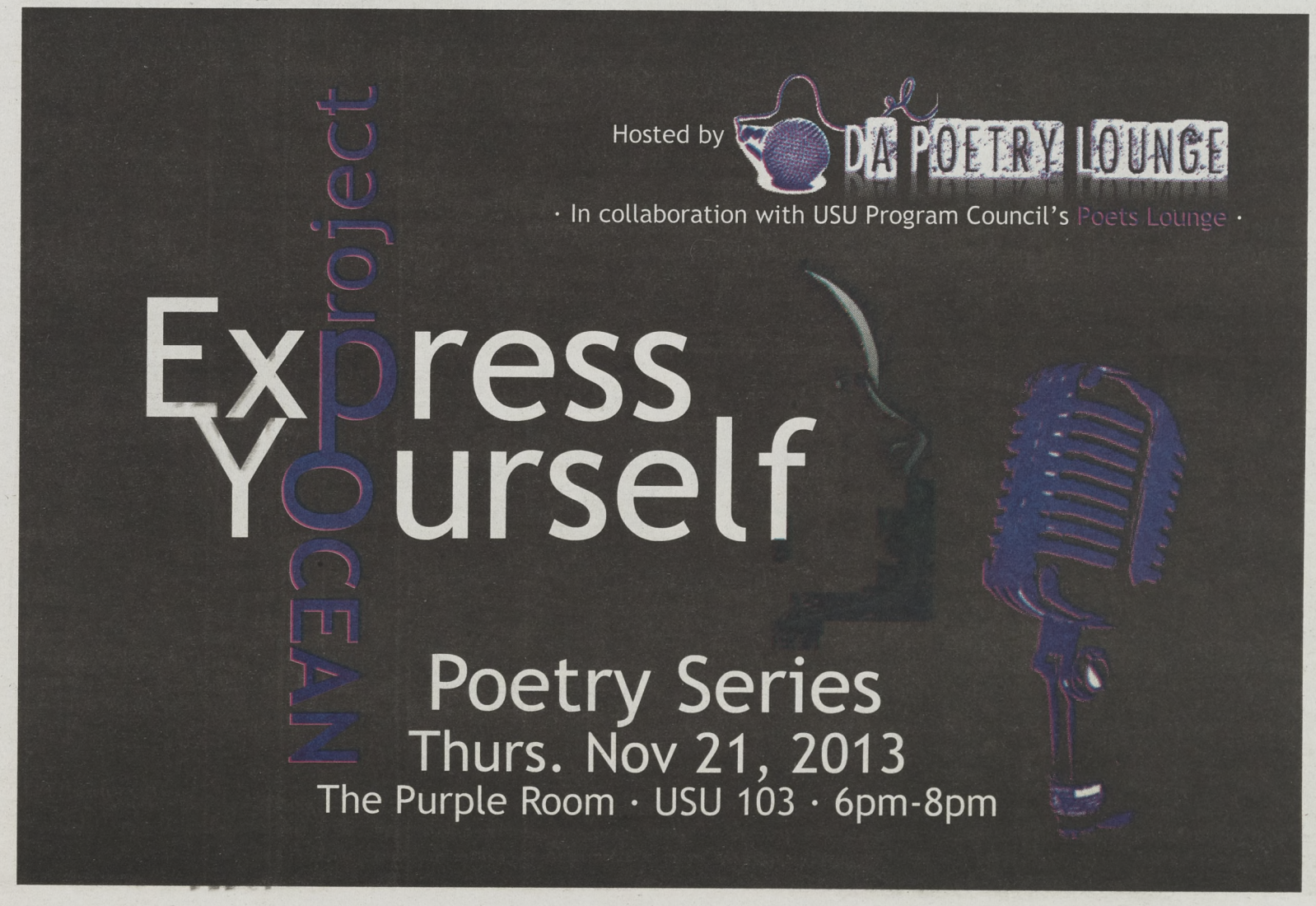
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NEW MUSIC THIS WEEK

Hellogoodbye brings a fresh sound to their new album.

FACEBOOK

"Everything Is Debatable" is their third full album since 2010.

By Danielle Carson
Diversions Editor

Hellogoodbye. Fans listened to them in middle school, and thought they disappeared along with those awkward years. Their strange mix of emo, alternative and electronic sound with lyrics about hopeless love and adolescent troubles made the girls swoon.

But, while listening to their half-decade old hits like "Here In Your Arms" and "Shimmy Shimmy Quarter Turn," it's hard not to shake one's head in embarrassment.

Hellogoodbye, however, managed to catch the attention of old fans who thought they had outgrown their music at Fingerprints Music on Oct. 20, where they played a release show for their new album, "Everything Is Debatable." The album hit shelves yesterday.

The new album definitely maintains the boy-band characteristics that Hellogoodbye radiates, but this time around, they dropped the emo for a more modern sound. Lead singer Forrest Kline maintained his high-pitched vibrato and lighthearted lyrics in a few songs such as "Summer Of The Lily Pond," and "I Don't Worry."

A majority of the instrumentation on the new album is keyboarding and synthesizer vibes accompanied by distant vocalization and hypnotic rhythm. The sound conforms to some of today's electronic indie-pop sound from popular bands such as The Naked and Famous and M83.

Kline still sings of cutesy love and laments of heartbreak, but does so in a more amusing manner. This album speaks more to this generation, and is debatably more danceable with the heavier bass and textural effects.

Fans can say "goodbye" to memories of rainbow-colored shoelaces and black nail polish, and "hello" to the band's revamped sound.

The band's newest album is their finest masterpiece.

FACEBOOK

Arcade Fire's "Reflektor" is longer than 75 minutes.

By Shane Newell
Opinions Editor

Arcade Fire has set the rock music world ablaze with its fourth album, "Reflektor."

From the album's opening chord, fans of the Montreal-based indie band can easily hear the new musical direction the band has taken.

On the album's title track, frontman Win Butler sings in a hushed voice, "If this is heaven / I need something more / Just a place to be alone / 'Cause you're my home."

What stands out about the song is its finely produced sound from LCD Soundsystem frontman James Murphy.

Synthesizers, repetitive bass riffs and a churning drumbeat dominates much of the title song.

Recorded as a double album, "Reflektor" stands at more than 75 minutes long. Despite the album's length, the number of finely crafted tunes seems endless.

The second track on the album, "We Exist," features a bass rumble similar to Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean."

Complete with bare vocals from Butler and melodic harmonies from the rest of the band, "We Exist" is one of the album's many gems.

Perhaps the album's most engaging track is "Afterlife," a tale of Butler pondering life after death.

"Afterlife / Oh my God, what an awful word," Butler sings with a passion that exudes loneliness and doubt. "Can we just work it out? / Scream and shout 'till we work it out."

With "Reflektor," it's clear that Arcade Fire is operating at its peak. The album is easily the band's finest masterpiece.

The new album was released in stores and online yesterday and is also available on iTunes.

CONCERT GUIDE

Week of Oct. 30

Dangerous D
Wednesday
9 p.m.
5205 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.
Head on down to diPiazza's and get on an early start to your Halloween weekend where bands like Pasadena, Dangerous D and The Bumpin Uglies will be performing.

Rock 'N' Roll Karaoke
Wednesday
10 p.m.
2913 E. Anaheim St.
Channel your inner rockstar at Alex's Bar's Rock 'N' Roll Suicide Karaoke night. The event is open to those aged 21 and older.

Make Some Noise
Wednesday
7:30 - 10 p.m.
2300 E. Fourth St.
If singing original songs with your own music is more your thing, check out Portfolio Coffeehouse's "Make Some Noise" event every Wednesday, where local artists are encouraged to perform.

IN A BAND AND LOOKING FOR PUBLICITY?
KNOW A LOCAL BAND YOU WANT TO REVIEW?
- Long Beach arts and entertainment calendar of events
- Find reviews and information about local venues
- In a band? Send us your information!
Know a band or venue?
Send us the details We'd love to hear your ideas!
Get in contact with Distractions by The Beach at
www.Daily49er.com/Diversions

CLASSIFIEDS

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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And it's 40% online, for working professional.
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to speak with your education program recruiter, Tammy Hong.

11 ORGANIZATIONS

Are you interested in science, creation, and faith?
www.thecharacterofcreation.org

18563 - 11.4.13

27 LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Concerns? On-Campus Consultation with private attorney (562) 481-5884
Michael Lindley Esq.

18558 - 12.12.13

35 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Golden Spoon Frozen Yogurt
Part time up to 20 hours/week must be available Tuesday & Thursday 10 am-2 pm Email: goldenspoonlb@yahoo.com

54 APTS FOR RENT

$1,150 2Bd/2Ba/2car PRKNG in LB.
See www.NicksRentals.com for Pics + Info or call 310-316-4273

18560 - 10.11.13

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$1,300~400/month (15hrs/week) + airfares, housing, medical insurance
Must have completed two years of undergraduate

Last day to apply: 11/30/13
Please visit the website www.talk.go.kr
Questions: Jai - jai.kecla@gmail.com
213)386-3112 ex.201

Spring 2014 English Program in Korea (EPIK)

$1,600-2,500/month + housing, airfare, medical insurance, paid vacation
Must have BA degree and TESOL or TEFL certificate

Last day to apply: Sometime in November
this date is tentative and could change depending on circumstances
Please visit the website www.epik.go.kr
Questions:
EPIK office in Korea: epik@korea.kr

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AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV.
DEC. JAN. FEB. MAR.
APR. MAY JUNE JULY

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

BIG WEST STANDINGS

	CONF.	POINTS
Cal Poly	6-1-0	18
UC Irvine	5-2-0	15
Cal State Fullerton	3-2-1	10
UC Santa Barbara	3-4-0	9
UC Riverside	3-4-0	9
LONG BEACH STATE	2-2-2	8
Hawaii	2-4-1	7
UC Davis	2-3-1	7
Cal State Northridge	1-5-1	4

KEY GAMES

Cal Poly at UC Davis
2 p.m. Thursday

This game is nowhere near as influential to the 49ers' playoff hopes as the ones that follow, as Cal Poly will likely take care of UC Davis with ease. But the Aggies are within striking distance of fourth place, and an upset would really shake up the standings.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
Cal Poly wins. Easily.

Cal State Fullerton at Long Beach State
6 p.m. Thursday

The 49ers' annual rivalry game with the Titans has more meaning this year than most. Both teams are in the thick of the race for spots in the Big West tournament, and the outcome of this game will go a long way toward determining who moves on and who goes home.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
Both teams battle, but neither one can get separation in a tie.

Cal State Fullerton at UC Irvine
2 p.m. Sunday

UC Irvine has already clinched second place, making this Orange County battle irrelevant to the Anteaters. But it could mean everything to the Titans and even Long Beach State depending on what happens on Thursday.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
UC Irvine wins by one goal in a thriller.

UC Riverside at Long Beach State
2 p.m. Sunday

A win over the Highlanders paired with anything but a loss against Cal State Fullerton would put LBSU in a great position to make the Big West tournament. The specifics are complex, but this is a must-win for the 49ers.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
LBSU wins, clinches a spot in the BWT.

UC Santa Barbara at UC Davis
2 p.m. Sunday

This is the last of the big Sunday 2 p.m. games. UC Davis is on the outside looking in on the Big West tournament, so this is a must-win game for them to even have a chance. For the Gauchos, on the other hand, the result of this game could put them in prime position for a top-four finish or ruin their chances and open the door for teams like CSUF, LBSU and UCR.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
Both teams' scoring struggles continue in a scoreless tie.

Cal State Northridge at Hawaii
3 p.m. Sunday

The final regular-season Big West game will likely have very little bearing on the final standings. A scenario does exist, though, that would result in four teams, including Hawaii, being tied for fourth place. That situation can be avoided if the Wahine simply tie or lose to CSUN.

Sports Editor's Prediction:
Hawaii takes down CSUN, but it doesn't impact the final standings.

WOMEN'S SOCCER FINAL WEEKEND

'Niners to host final regular-season games

LBSU will face CSUF and UCR and try to earn a spot in the Big West tournament.

By Daniel Astle
Assistant Sports Editor

The Long Beach State women's soccer team heads into its final two regular-season games this weekend in sixth place and as one of six conference teams still uncertain of a postseason berth.

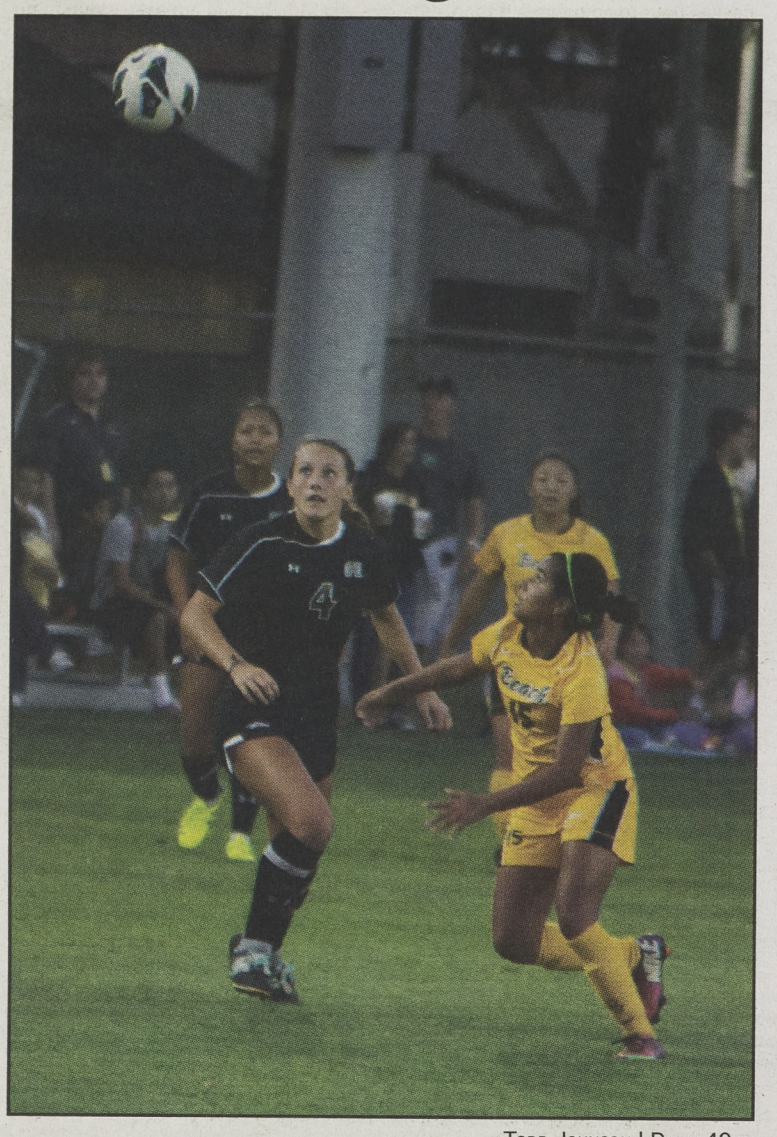
The 'Niners will host Cal State Fullerton on Thursday and UC Riverside on Sunday at George Allen Field, with each game potentially determining LBSU's postseason fate.

As it currently stands, the only teams that have clinched spots in the Big West tournament are first-place Cal Poly and second-place UC Irvine. Of the seven teams below those two, six are battling for the remaining two tournament spots, and all stand within a mere three-point difference.

Because of such tight circumstances within the conference heading into the season's final weekend, a multitude of scenarios around the Big West are still possible in determining LBSU's shot of making or missing this year's postseason.

"I think you could look at it both ways," head coach Mauricio Ingrassia said, "because even if we would have had the points there, we would have had to get points this weekend because if we didn't, we would have got caught from behind."

The 49ers' chances of making the postseason might rely less on what they do this weekend than what teams around the conference do, which suggests LBSU's severe state of tournament limbo.



Todd Johnson | Daily 49er
Mimi Rangel (15) will be counted on for offense this weekend. She leads the 49ers with five goals overall and two in conference play.

After receiving a red card late in Friday's loss at Cal State Northridge, Taylor Nelson has been declared ineligible to play for the 'Niners this Thursday against the Titans. She will, however, be able to start for the team in Sunday's crucial season finale against the Highlanders.

The 'Niners have struggled during conference play in converting scoring opportunities into goals, as they scored just one goal total in the four games they either lost or tied.

LBSU has been without its key scorer Eileen Maes for six weeks after a knee injury and has had issues staying consistent with its offense between wins against top-tier teams like Brigham Young, Texas Tech and UCI.

"We're working on figuring us out offensively and trying to figure out what to do without Taylor [Nelson] on defense and getting after it in front of our fans [starting Thursday]," Ingrassia said.

If the 'Niners have a distinct advantage over several of the other six teams fighting for a tournament spot, it's that they still have two conference games remaining to collect points while four others have a single game to do so.

The Beach is UCR's only remaining opponent this season, which meand Sunday's match will be the Highlanders' last opportunity to make the postseason.

This year's chase for a conference tournament spot is different than the 49ers' postseason chase a year ago.

Last year the 'Niners had a much higher RPI heading into its final weekend of the season than they do this year, by a difference of nearly 30 teams, so they qualified for the NCAA Tournament despite falling short of the conference tournament.

It is more likely this year that LBSU will have to finish conference play strong if it's planning on playing in a postseason. Ingrassia said the goal in obtaining that will be taking the experience the team has gained so far this year and, ideally, using it to manufacture two final wins to ensure a playoff spot.

"When you're able to create chances, that's the first step," Ingrassia said. "You have to be able to create them before you put them in. We've created them. Now it's just a matter of sticking them in."

The 'Niners will host CSUF on Thursday at 6 p.m. and UCR on Sunday's Senior Day at 2 p.m. Both matches will be played at George Allen Field.

COMMENTARY

Winning is the simplest solution for Long Beach State

Jason Clark
Sports Editor

We tried.

We tried to give you a breakdown of all the different scenarios surrounding the final weekend of regular-season Big West women's soccer. We tried to explain it, spell it out possibility by possibility in a way that was understandable.

But after a few hours of relentlessly going over different combinations of the outcomes of this weekend's games, only one thing was clear: it's too complicated.

At first, we were excited. Six teams vying for two playoff spots in one weekend? How could it get more exiting than that?

The truth is, it can't. The sports drama surrounding this weekend is as exciting as it gets. It's not worth trying to figure it all out because it's just too complicated.

During our research, though, we did get some answers. Here are a few things to keep in mind while taking in the soccer action this weekend.

Long Beach State controls its own destiny

This is by far the most important piece of knowledge any 49er fan should have this weekend. Even

The mulititude of possibilities surrounding final stretch of the Big West women's soccer season seems simple at first. It isn't.

though they sit in sixth, two places out of a spot in the Big West tournament, the 'Niners have the perfect opportunity to make rise to fourth place and possibly even third.

If LBSU beats Cal State Fullerton and UC Riverside, it will earn six points and move into third place no matter what happens in the rest of the conference this weekend.

It brings to mind an oft-used coaching cliché: we can only worry about ourselves. We can only focus on our game.

That cliché is usually true, and it remains true in this case. The 49ers don't have to worry about anybody else, and they don't have to scoreboard watch. They are in complete control of the outcome of their season.

As long as they win.

If LBSU doesn't win, there's still hope

The 49ers are fortunate in that they own tiebreakers with contending teams like UCSB and possibly UCR. They are in a remarkably good position given that they're in sixth place and haven't cracked the top four of the Big West standings since the first weekend of conference play.

LBSU's 2-1 win over the Gauchos on Oct. 6 was critical. There are several scenarios that would result in the two teams being tied, and because of that win, the 49ers will be the ones moving on.

The 'Niners are also lucky in that the head-to-head matchups with CSUF and UCR are coming at the right time. A win over either team would provide LBSU with a significant jump in the conference standings and also give them another head-to-head advantage with a close competitor.

As always, the best solution is winning

For all the complexity involved in this final weekend, there are two simple outcomes: winning and losing.

As previously mentioned, two wins would clinch a spot in the Big West tournament.

Two losses, however, or even one tie and one loss, would prevent LBSU from reaching it at all.

Ten points is the minimum it will take to make the postseason. That isn't to say that the fourth-place team will have 10 points — it could easily end up with 11 or 12 — but it will be impossible for a team with anything less than 10 points to advance.

One win would jump the 49ers' points total to 11 and significantly increase their chances of moving on.

It may be obvious, but for the 49ers, winning is the simplest and most ideal solution.